

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, and 13-18 are amended; and Claim 20 is canceled by the present amendment. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, and 13-18 are amended to only correct cosmetic matters of form cited in the outstanding Official Action. No new matter is presented.

It should be noted that the amendments presented herein are based on the Supplemental Amendment filed January 30, 2006, which was entered on to the record. The change marks and status of the claims presented in the present amendment are therefore based on the status of the claims, and corresponding text of the claims as presented in the supplemental amendment of January 30, 2006. It should be noted that the changes presented herein correct minor informalities and typographical errors, and in many cases revert the claims back to the form of the Amendment filed on August 5, 2005. Thus, no new matter is presented.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 which after final rejection permits entering of amendments canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The present amendment amends the claims to correct minor informalities and cosmetic issues to comply with the requirements of form expressly set forth in the previous Official Action. Claims 1-19 are already indicated as being allowable over the applied references, and the claims are amended, where applicable, to incorporate the language noted by the Examiner as being used to interpret the claims. Thus, no new matter has been added, and this amendment does not raise new issues requiring

further reconsideration and/or search. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In the outstanding Official Action, the specification was objected to because of a minor informality regarding Claim 20; Claims 1, 6, 7, 10 and 14-18 were objected to because of the manner of making amendments is not in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121; Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18 and 20 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(a) as being “unclear”; Claims 6, 10 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as directed to non-statutory subject matter; Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Larkey (U.S. Patent No. 5,127,055) in view of Nitta (U.S. Patent No. 5,255,342); and Claims 1-19 were indicated as allowable over the art of record if rewritten to overcome the objections and rejections noted in the outstanding Official Action.

In response to the objection to the specification for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter recited in Claim 20, Claim 20 is canceled herein thereby rendering this rejection moot. Similarly, Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Larkey in view of Nitta. As noted above, Claim 20 is cancelled, therefore, the outstanding rejections thereto under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and 35 U.S.C. § 103 have been rendered moot.

Regarding the objections to Claims 1, 6, 7, 10 and 14-18, because the manner of making amendments is not in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, the present claims are amended based on the claims filed in the Supplement Amendment of January 30, 2006. Accordingly, a summary of the claim amendments is presented below, and should the

Examiner have any specific questions regarding the status of the claims they are asked to contact the undersigned by telephone at their earliest convenience.

Claim 1 is amended by the present amendment to clearly indicate that the term “at least” has been deleted from this claim. Claim 6 is amended to specifically indicate that the phrase “as a other” should read “as a mother”. Claims 7 and 18 are amended to indicate that the phrase “in (particular” should read “in particular”. Claim 10 is amended to specify that the phrase “property of eing” should read “property of being”, and that the phrase “distance unction” should read “distance function.” Claim 14 is amended to clarify that the phrase “using said a starting” should read “using a starting”. Claim 15 is amended to clarify that the phrase “for aid comparison” should read “for said comparison.” Claim 16 is amended to clarify that the phrase “for aid comparison” should read “for said comparison”; that the phrase “to canonical pronunciation” should read “to a canonical pronunciation;” and the phrase “speaker in aid” should read “speaker in said.” Claim 17 is amended to indicate that the phrase “from aid current” should read “from said current”, and the phrase “data o be evaluated” should read “data to be evaluated.”

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to Claims 1, 6, 7, 10 and 14-18 be withdrawn in light of the above noted clarifications to these claims.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18 and 20 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(a) as including phrases which are cited as unclear.

Regarding Claim 2, the outstanding Official Action objected to this claim because the meaning of the phrase “said adapting” “needs clarification.” In response, Claim 2 is amended to recite “a step of adapting”, in accordance with the interpretation set forth by the Examiner in the outstanding Official Action. Claim 3 was objected to because the meaning of the phrase “said determining and/or generating” was cited as unclear. In response, Claim 3 is amended to recite “a step of determining and/or generating”, consistent with the

interpretations set forth in the outstanding Official Action. Regarding Claim 7, this claim is objected to for not containing a closing parenthesis “)”. In response, as noted above, the opening parenthesis “(“ in this claim is omitted, thereby no longer necessitating a close parenthesis. Claim 8 was objected to because the meaning of the phrase “said determining and/or generating” was unclear. In response, this claim is amended to recite “a step of determining and/or generating”, consistent with the interpretation set forth in the outstanding Official Action. Claim 8 was further objected to because the meaning of the phrase “said current speaker” raised an antecedent basis issue. In response, the recitation of “a current speaker” at line 3 of Claim 8 is amended to recite “said current speaker”, to rely on the recitation of this phrase in independent Claim 1. Claim 10 was objected to because the meaning of the phrase “said property of eing” was unclear. As noted above, Claim 10 is amended to recite “a property of being” to clarify this claimed feature. Claim 13 was objected to because the meaning of the phrase “the step of determining and/or generating” was unclear. In response, Claim 13 is amended to recite “a step of determining and/or generating” consistent with the interpretation of this phrase, set forth in the outstanding Official Action. Claim 14 was objected to because of the meaning of the phrase “said a staring or canonical lexicon” was unclear. As noted above, Claim 14 is amended to recite “a starting or canonical lexicon” to clarify the no antecedent basis relied upon for this term. Claim 18 was objected to because it does not contain a closing parenthesis “)”. In response, as noted above, Claim 18 is amended to remove the opening parenthesis “(”, thereby rendering the use of a closing parenthesis unnecessary.

Accordingly, in light of the clarifications of the claims as noted above, and the discussion presented above, Applicants respectfully request the objections to Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14 and 18 be withdrawn.

Claims 6, 10, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants wish to note that each of the claim terms cited in the rejection of Claims 6, 10, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, are addressed above. Specifically, these claims are amended to modify these cited claim terms, and clearly recite claim features for which adequate support can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 6, 10, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Similarly, Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, citing the term "o". As noted above, Claim 17 is amended to recite "data to be evaluated", instead of "data o be evaluated", to clearly recite the subject matter which is claimed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

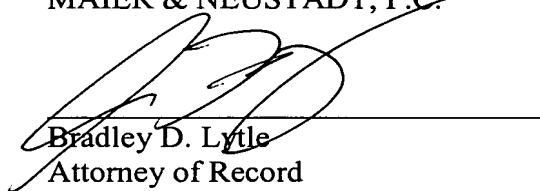
Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-19 is definite and patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Further, as noted above, the present amendments are presented only to correct matters of form and minor informalities in the claims and do not raise issues of new matter requiring further search and/or reconsideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment be entered, and that Claims 1-19 be passed to issue, as these claims are indicated as allowable over the prior art of record in the outstanding Official

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-19 is definite and patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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